

FAUNAL SEQUENCE

The top of the sampled section at 850 feet is regarded as of Upper Miocene age and probably an uninterrupted section is represented down to the Upper Eocene.

No foraminifera were found in cores below core 4 (3,800-3,828 feet) and no new species were found in cuttings below this core, although foraminiferal contaminants are heavy below this level. This implies that the base of the marine Tertiary sequence is at or just below 3,828 feet.

The Bass No.2 sequence will be discussed in terms of the biostratigraphic zonule scheme established by Taylor (1966) for the Esso Gippsland Shelf No.1 Well and applied to the Esso Bass No.1 Well. The biostratigraphic comparison is illustrated on figure 1 of this report. On comparison it will be seen that Bass No.1 and No.2 are similar but that the latter is abbreviated, partly because of the absence of volcanics.

Upper Miocene: From the heavy contamination to 2,100 feet, it is apparent that the Upper Miocene is present at the top of the section and is represented by the shallow water Zonula A fauna. It is supposed that Zonule B is also present.

Middle Miocene: ? to 2,505 feet - Below the 13 5/8" casing cuttings were evidently uncontaminated. From 2,100 to 2,200 feet the planktonic fauna included Orbulina universa, O. sutularis, Globigerinoides rubra, G. triloba, and Globorotalia conica; the benthonic fauna included Uvigerina sp.2, sp.4 and cf. sp.12. Such a fauna signifies Zonule D.

Below 2,200 feet Orbulina universa is absent but the other members of the Orbulina universa bioseries are in abundance and both Globigerinoides bispherica and G. transitoria make their highest appearance. The benthonic fauna includes Bolivina sp.9 and 10, Uvigerina sp.2, sp.3, sp.4, sp.7 and sp.8. The development stage represented in the Orbulina universa bioseries as well as the stages in certain bolivinid and uvigerinid bioseries, all indicate the top of Zonule E at 2,200 feet.